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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/677,197	10/02/2000	Mehran Mehregany	47799.00003	7092

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EXAMINER

ABDI, KAMBIZ

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3621

DATE MAILED: 08/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Art Unit: 3621

### DETAILED ACTION

1. The prior office actions are incorporated herein by reference. In particular, the observations with respect to claim language, and response to previously presented arguments.

- Independent claims 26 and 32 are amended.
- Claims 27 and 33 are canceled.
- Claims 26, 28-32 and 34-40 are allowed.

### *Examiner's Amendment*

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with attorney Matthew J. Evans on May 15, 2006.

The examiner under agreement by the attorney representing the applicant has amended independent claims 26 and 32.

The claims in the application has been amended as follow:

1.-25. (Cancelled)

✓ 26. (Currently Amended) A method for limiting disclosure of a first description of a project for at least one of research and development, the method comprising:

accessing aggregated first data describing a set of suppliers and aggregated second data describing the project to identify a first subset of the set of suppliers, each supplier of the first subset having a quantitative extent of correspondence between the respective aggregated first data and the aggregated second data;

determining the respective quantitative extent of correspondence and identifying the respective suppliers in the first subset utilizing the aggregated first data and the aggregated second data, the determining and identifying being performed by a stored computer program, wherein

(1) aggregated first data describing the plurality of suppliers comprises for each supplier:

(a) indicators of subject matter, wherein the subject matter is known to the supplier; and

Art Unit: 3621

(b) quantitative indicators of supplier qualities including at least one of quantity of patents held, magnitude or quantity of grants received, and magnitude or quantity of contracts awarded; and

(2) aggregated second data describing the project comprises:

(a) indicators of particular subject matter including at least one of particular subject matter to be invented, particular subject matter to be reduced to practice and particular subject matter for a commercial product; and

(b) quantitative indicators of particular supplier qualities including at least one of desire minimum quantity of patents held, particular minimum magnitude or quantity of grants received, and particular minimum magnitude or quantity of contracts awarded; and

reporting the first subset of suppliers for a first restricted distribution of the first description of the project for a buyer seeking a supplier having a desired capacity for at least one of inventing, reducing to practice, or developing the commercial product, the first description comprising the indicators of particular subject matter;

receiving a plurality of proposals, each respective proposal from a member of the first subset;  
accessing the aggregated first data to identify a second subset of suppliers, each member of the second subset having indicators of particular subject matter known to the member corresponding to the indicators of particular subject matter; and

providing a multiplicity of the plurality of proposals to a member of the second subset for identifying a supplier of the first subset to be eliminated from a second restricted distribution of a second description of the project.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 further comprising aggregating the first aggregated data wherein aggregating comprises:

searching an information network to identify search results; and  
indexing the identified search results to provide keyword access.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein:

aggregating further comprises storing a record according to at least a portion of a message received from the information network; and  
indexing comprises analyzing the record.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising conducting the first restricted distribution in accordance with the report.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the report is ordered in accordance with the quantitative extent of correspondence.

Art Unit: 3621

- ✓32. (Previously Presented) A system for limiting disclosure of a first description of a project for at least one of research and development, the system comprising:
- means for accessing aggregated first data describing a set of suppliers, wherein the aggregated first data describing the plurality of suppliers comprises for each supplier:
    - (1) indicators of subject matter, wherein the subject matter is known to the supplier; and
    - (2) quantitative indicators of supplier qualities including at least one of quantity of patents held, magnitude or quantity of grants received, and magnitude or quantity of contracts awarded;
  - means for accessing aggregated second data describing the project to identify a first subset of the set of suppliers each supplier of the first subset having a quantitative extent of correspondence between the respective aggregated first data and the aggregated second data, wherein the aggregated second data describing the project comprises:
    - (1) indicators of particular subject matter including at least one of particular subject matter to be invented, particular subject matter to be reduced to practice and particular subject matter for a commercial product; and
    - (2) quantitative indicators of particular supplier qualities including at least one of desire minimum quantity of patents held, particular minimum magnitude or quantity of grants received, and particular minimum magnitude or quantity of contracts awarded; and
  - means for determining the respective quantitative extent of correspondence and identifying the respective supplier to the first subset utilizing the aggregated first data, the aggregated second data, and a stored computer program; and
  - means for reporting the first subset of suppliers for a first restricted distribution of the first description of the project for a buyer seeking a supplier having a desired capacity for at least one of inventing, reducing to practice, or developing the commercial product, the first description comprising the indicators of particular subject matter.
- means for receiving a plurality of proposals, each respective proposal from a member of the first subset;
- means for accessing the aggregated first data to identify a second subset of suppliers, each member of the second subset having indicators of particular subject matter known to the member corresponding to the indicators of particular subject matter and
- means for providing a multiplicity of the plurality of proposals to a member of the second subset for identifying a supplier of the first subset to be eliminated from a second restricted distribution of a second description of the project.

33. (Cancelled)

Art Unit: 3621

34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32 further comprising means for aggregating the first aggregated data wherein aggregating comprises:

means for searching an information network to identify search results; and  
means for indexing the identified search results to provide keyword access.

35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 34 wherein:

the means for aggregating further comprises means for storing a record according to at least a portion of a message received from the information network; and  
the means for indexing comprises means for analyzing the record.

36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32, further comprising means for conducting the first restricted distribution in accordance with the report.

37. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32 wherein the report is ordered in accordance with the quantitative extent of correspondence.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the aggregated second data describing the project is generated using the assistance of a broker.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38 wherein the broker receives one or more objectives of the project from the buyer via a network and utilizes the received objectives to generate at least a portion of the aggregated second data.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26Z wherein a broker reviews at least one of the received proposals and provides feedback to the supplier associated with the reviewed proposal, and wherein the supplier modifies the reviewed proposal in response to the feedback.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

5. The closest prior art of record is U.S. Patent No. 5,592,375 to Salmon et al. discloses brokering transactions between sellers and a buyer of goods or services, the system including a database, a Seller's Interface, and a Buyer's Interface. The database contains information, including multimedia information, descriptive of respective ones of the goods or services. The Seller's Interface enables the sellers to interactively enter information, including multimedia information, into the database. The Buyer's Interface provides a knowledge-based interactive protocol, enabling the buyer to select and review the descriptive information from the database, and makes perceptible the multimedia information in response to an interactive buyer request.

Art Unit: 3621

6. In regards to independent claims 26 and 32 the closes prior art of record when taken either individually or in combination with other prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest the step of;

"determining the respective quantitative extent of correspondence and identifying the respective suppliers in the first subset utilizing the aggregated first data and the aggregated second data, the determining and identifying being performed by a stored computer program," in conjunction with other steps of the claims as the combined steps to drive a determination and identification based on the aggregated information based on the steps of the claims as they have been currently presented.

7. Further claims 28-31 and 34-40 are dependent upon claims 26 and 32, thus have all the limitations of independent claims 26 and 32, therefore they are allowable for the same reason.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kambiz Abdi whose telephone number is ((571)272-6702. The examiner can normally be reached on 10 AM to 6:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Trammell P. James can be reached on (571)272-6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). Any response to this action should be mailed to:

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231**

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306 [Official communications; including After Final communications labeled "Box AF"]

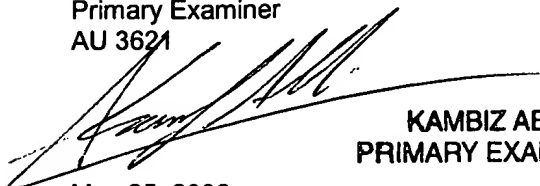
(703) 746-7749 [Informal/Draft communications, labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"]

Art Unit: 3621

Hand delivered responses should be brought to:

**Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive  
7th floor receptionist, Arlington, VA, 22202**

**Kambiz Abdi**  
Primary Examiner  
AU 3621

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kambiz Abdi', is written over a horizontal line.

**KAMBIZ ABDI  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

May 25, 2006